

# Army Keeps 'Conflict' Locked in College Safe

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At the orders of the Department of the Army, all but a few of the first 3,000-copy issue of "Conflict, a Quarterly Journal of Revolution and Social Change," have been locked in a safe at the offices of American University's Special Operations Research Office (SORO).

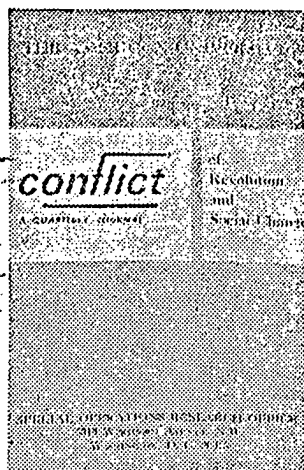
The brown, soft-covered, 120-page volume was to have been distributed July 1, but publication of stories about SORO's Project Camelot and the uproar caused by its subsequent cancellation, apparently led Army officials to place the journal temporarily under wraps.

The same type of limbo status has been created for the special SORO staff — said to number 20 persons—drawn together for the ambitious Camelot project.

## Assured of Funds

SORO officials have been assured by their Army contract monitors however that funds originally earmarked for Camelot—estimated at \$1.5 million a year — would continue to be available to SORO for support of new behavioral science research projects.

The SORO Camelot contingent—retitled Special Activities Group (SAG)—is working on new proposals to present to the Army and being integrated



into other SORO research efforts.

## Among these are:

"Task Colony," a study in Peru of "factors which differentiate successful from unsuccessful settlements," as SORO Director Theodore R. Vallance described it to a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee recently.

## Military Use

The Peru inquiry is expected to develop information that would be put to use by the Peruvian military if it decides to emulate the government settlement program for the country's poor Indian population.

The Peruvian government

reportedly is cooperating on the research project.

The U.S. embassy in Bolivia was asked last week to review and approve a "Task Colony" inquiry in that country which reportedly was initiated at least a month earlier.

## "Simpatico" in Colombia

In Colombia, SORO reportedly has under way "Task Simpatico," which Director Vallance told the House group was "an analysis of factors in the effectiveness of civic action programs . . . and is designed to note the effects on the attitudes of Colombian citizens of military-civic action programs in the country."

"It is being conducted," Vallance said, "with the full cooperation and, as a matter of fact, with the approval of the government of that country."

Results from "Simpatico" are expected to be used to determine "guidelines for more effective (military civic action programs) in the future," Vallance added.

## Improve Image

According to a government official, it also will aid in determining whether civic action works as a means to combat insurgency and a way in which indigenous forces can improve their public images in Latin American countries.

SORO also has underway "Task Role," four studies of the roles Latin American military establishments play in development of their countries. These studies have been subcontracted out, and the names of the countries are not available.

The publication of "Conflict," which was described in a March promotion piece as "an unclassified scholarly review of the 'state-of-the-art' in what is now called counterinsurgency" was financed by Defense Department funds paid out to run SORO's Counterinsurgency Information Analysis Center (CINFAC).

SORO was authorized to publish a quarterly "listing the holdings of the center and highlighting new materials and concepts in the field of counterinsurgency."

Twenty pages of the first issue are taken up with book and magazine article reviews, while the remaining 100 are devoted to articles. The back

cover unfolds to a four-color map of the world with circles drawn around the three areas discussed in these articles.

"Conflict," according to its promotion letter, was to have an initial free distribution "limited to a selected list of government officials, scientists, scholars and certain government contractors."

"In time," the letter added, "this journal will be available to the public on a subscription basis."

At present it appears doubtful whether even the first issue will be made available—even within the government.